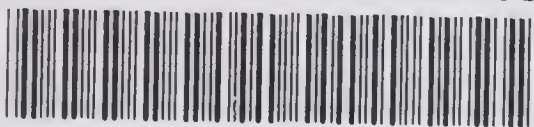


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Ed. Taylor

American freedmen's union commission

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

American Freedmen's Aid Union.

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### PREAMBLE.

To promote a general union, and secure greater harmony of action among the Friends of the Black Man ; to give unity and increased effectiveness to the movement now on foot in his behalf; and to insure a more judicious and economical expenditure of the means employed for his benefit, the New England Freedmen's Aid Society, the Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association, and the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People, form themselves into a general Association, to be governed by the following

### CONSTITUTION.

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#### ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be called THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S AID UNION.

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## ARTICLE II.

The object of this Association shall be to aid the Colored Man to overcome the difficulties of his new position; to assist him in his efforts to rise from the degradation to which slavery has reduced him; and to fit him for the full enjoyment of all the blessings and the wisest exercise of all the rights that belong to the condition of freedom.

## ARTICLE III.

The means which this Association shall employ to accomplish their object shall be, the distribution of material supplies for the relief of physical want; the establishment of rudimentary schools for the promotion of useful knowledge; and the encouragement and support, to the extent of their ability, of all proper measures and institutions having for their aim the good of the Colored Man. They will also seek, by the diffusion of information and the correction of false opinion, to remove from the public mind the prejudices engendered by slavery, which now stand in the way of the Colored Man's elevation.

## ARTICLE IV.

The affairs of this Association shall be conducted by a Board of Managers, composed of three members, chosen by each of the constituent associations, annually, on or before the first day of May, and this Board of Managers shall make their own by-laws and choose their own officers.

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## ARTICLE V.

The Board of Managers shall seek to promote unity, harmony, and efficiency of action among the friends of the Black Man. To this end they shall respect the rights and regard the wishes of the constituent associations; they shall cultivate friendly relations with other societies having in view the same object; they shall have power to define the field from which each constituent association shall collect funds and supplies; they shall assist by their counsel, and otherwise, to the extent of their ability, in the dispensation of material aid, in the arrangement of schools, in the appointment of superintendents, and the like, so as to ensure the wisest and most economical expenditure of time, labor, and money; they shall have power to establish and maintain a newspaper which shall be the common organ of the Union, and to put into the field, outside of the limits of the constituent association, financial and other agents, for the diffusion of information, and the collection of funds for the common interest; and to do such other acts and things as may be deemed expedient for the promotion of the objects of the Union, as defined in Articles II. and III. of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VI.

Other Freedmen's Associations may be admitted to membership of this Union, by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Managers.



## ARTICLE VII.

The annual meeting of this Association shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Managers may direct, and at this meeting a report shall be made of the proceedings of the previous year, appropriate addresses delivered, and such other exercises had as shall be deemed expedient.

## ARTICLE VIII.

This Constitution may be amended at any time by alterations adopted by the Board of Managers, and ratified by all the constituent associations.

## ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution shall go into effect as soon as ratified by the societies named in the Preamble, the ratification to be made known by each to the others on or before the first day of March, 1865. The first meeting of the Board shall be held in the city of New York, on the third Wednesday of March, 1865. The subsequent meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as the Board shall determine.







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